

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOLI 00255 181858Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00
ACDA-12 MCE-00 IGA-02 MCT-01 CU-04 AF-10 IO-13
/110 W

-----097658 181907Z /42

O R 191930Z FEB 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5172
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0255

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EAIR, LY
SUBJECT: SALE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT AND SERVICES TO LIBYA.

REFS: A. STATE 042713
B. STATE 043252
C. TRIPOLI 0254

1. I INFORMED FORNOFF OF U.S. DECISIONS RE AIRCRAFT SALE AND SUPPORT AT 1300 LOCAL FEB 18. MESSAGE CONVEYED TO MID-LEVEL OFFICIAL OF AMERICAS DEPARTMENT WHO WAS ONLY PERSON AVAILABLE AT TIME. AT 1800 LOCAL I WAS CALLED BACK TO FORNOFF BY AWAD BOURWIN CHEF DU CABINET TO FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI.

2. SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS OF TURAYKI HE SAID LIBYAN GOV'T REGRETTED U.S. DECISION ON SUPPORT FOR C-130'S AND FUTURE BOEING SALES. LIBYAN GOV'T REGARDED DECISION AS "UNFRIENDLY ACT WHICH COULD SEVERELY DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES". LIBYAN GOV'T REQUESTED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION BE POSTPONED TO ALLOW TIME FOR FULLER DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

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I EXPLAINED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT BY SENATORS OFFICE PROBABLY UNDER-WAY AND COULD NOT BE DELAYED BUT THAT I WOULD FORWARD MESSAGE AT ONCE.

3. RAPIDITY AND LEVEL OF LIBYAN REACTION ON EVE OF PROPHETS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (FEB19) AND OPENING OF OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FEB 20 SOMEWHAT SURPRISING. CLEARLY LIBYANS THEMSELVES SURPRISED AT DECIS-

IONS, NEWS OF WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN CONVEYED IMMEDIATELY TO QADHAFI. REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND INDICATION OF DESIRE FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE LIKELY AIMED AT AVOIDING PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT AS OAU CONFERENCE OPENS. ON OTHER HAND DESIRE FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION MAY EXIST. BOURWIN OBSERVED THAT LIBYAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS WERE IMPORTANT FOR BOTH COUNTRIES AND SHOULD NOT BE HASTILY JEOPARDIZED. HE REJECTED MY COMMENTS ON LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM WITH USUAL LINE OF SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. MEETING WAS COURTEOUS AND CORRECT.

4. LOCKHEED TEAM CHIEF WEST HAS BEEN INFORMED BY COMPANY OF DECISIONS

AND PLANS TO PASS NEWS TO LIBYAN AIR FORCE CHIEF FARJANI TONIGHT. ESSO AND PERHAPS OTHER U.S. OIL COMPANIES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN TIPPED OFF BY HOME OFFICES THAT ANNOUNCEMENT IS PENDING. WE ARE NOW BRIEFING

SENIOR OFFICIALS OF COMPANIES ON SUBJECT.
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Message Attributes

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